

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 10, 1909, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. March 10, 1909. Dear Alec:

No letter this morning, but I fear mine haven't come very regularly although I have written nearly every day.

I am glad you are not here today, it's warm, moist and sultry and everyone is wilting. Dr. Miller examined Daisy and said she was carrying her baby in the best, most normal position and it's heart beat was 142 and she had every prospect of a perfectly normal delivery with no complications and probably easier than with Sandie. She tried to get him to give some opinions on the question of twins and sex. He said he could see no signs of the twins and he almost certainly could detect them and as for sex, people generally thought more rapid pulse indicated girls and slower boys and the average was 135 to 150, but he had known boys with 160, so he wouldn't forecast, which raises my opinion of him as a sensible man.

The storm hereabouts must have been frightful. Gipsey writes that the telegraph poles from here to Wilmington were all down, looking for all the world like soldiers fallen in their ranks.

Mr. Crouter won't see me till next week. I got your father's V.S. book and David has a fine plan for attracting notice by having some foreign language telegraphed by means of your father's code.—51-68-123-72-76-56-123-113-67-23-53-68-113-103-48-83 = [???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???] 2 This won't do of course, 67 words it makes. Daisy suggests letters which would be all right. There are 26 and only 24 are required. We could combine them thus AZ for 11 — () by for 12 ([???]) bx for 13

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([???]) bw for 14 ([???]) bv for 15 ([???]) bw for 16 ([???]) etc. and combine them into words, for instance bybxbw bvbu etc. You see the combination is of the two ends of the alphabet. David is very nice. If the World's Work pay you for your article I think it would be nice to turn it over to him unless you spend it yourself. That is you always give away things like this and he would be the one next to me to whom you could give it most fairly. But it would be nicest for you to spend it in buying something your very ownself.

Lovingly, Mabel. Mamma's birthday is the 12th.